

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00 PRS-01 PM-03

SPC-01 DRC-01 /052 W

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O 021152Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8479

INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15834

LIMDIS

USAREUR POLAD FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, MILI

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISIT TO
FRG

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY INFORMED US MORNING NOV. 2 THAT IT
EXPECTED INQUIRIES AT GOVERNMENT PRESS CONFERENCE AT
1100 HOURS ABOUT THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF SECDEF
SCHLESINGER. THEY SAID EVEN IF INQUIRIES DID NOT ARISE
AT PRESS CONFERENCE, QUESTIONS WOULD BE BOUND TO ARISE
SOON AFTERWARD BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO CANCEL THE JOINT
LEBER-SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 8
IN BONN.

2. THEREFORE, ON THE BASIS OF THE SECDEF'S COMMUNICA-
TION TO MINISTER LEBER WHICH DEFENSE ATTACHE DELIVERED
TO LEBER THIS MORNING, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SAID IT
INTENDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRESS LINE, IF QUERIED,
ABOUT THE SECDEF'S VISIT.

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3. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO

VISIT GERMANY FROM MINISTER LEBER AT THE TIME OF THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JULY. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD EXPECTED TO MAKE THE VISIT NEXT WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH NPG MEETING. HOWEVER, THE FRG WAS NOW INFORMED THAT SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES AROSE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISITS TO NEAR EAST COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT BOTH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOULD BE ABSENT FROM THE US AT THE SAME TIME. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT WILL BE POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE. THE TWO MINISTERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AT THE HAGUE FOR PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. BOTH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO ANSWER "NO COMMENT" TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE SCHLESINGER VISIT, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SENSITIVE JUNCTURE IN US-FRG RELATIONS. THEREFORE, WE INTEND TO FOLLOW THE SAME GENERAL PRESS LINE AS THE FRG'S, IF WE ARE QUERIED, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS US OTHERWISE.

HILLENBRAND

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